




STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES  
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
500 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 30, 2007  
**TO:** Kathleen Clinton, John Craven, and C.J. McMorran  
**FROM:** Stephen H. Norris  
Deputy Commissioner   
**SUBJECT:** Wheelchair Ramps

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The Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers for persons with mental retardation provide coverage for wheelchair ramps, but specify that "*Wheelchair ramps shall be provided for only one entrance into an enrollee's place of residence.*" Thus a service recipient who resides with family or in a one-person residential setting would be eligible for one wheelchair ramp for the place of residence, based on medical need, provided that an appropriate wheelchair ramp is not already in place. If the place of residence already has an appropriate wheelchair ramp in place that can meet the needs of the individual, an additional wheelchair ramp would not be covered through the waiver.

Since HCBS waiver services are specific to the individual service recipient, the question has arisen regarding coverage for a second wheelchair ramp when two or more service recipients, each of whom requires a wheelchair ramp, reside in the same place of residence. In such a situation, there must be documentation that the existing ramp does not meet the enrollee's mobility and accessibility needs for entrance into and exit from the residence or that the existing ramp does not meet the enrollee's medical or remedial needs. The documentation must be provided by a qualified health care professional. If the current wheelchair ramp is routinely adequate to meet the needs of the service recipients for entrance and exit from the house, then a second wheelchair ramp would not be justified.

SHN:wlm

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